

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 6-8, 11 and 13-22 are amended to even more clearly distinguish over the applied reference. No new matter is added by the above amendments.

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,877,843 to Takagi et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Fig. 7 embodiment referenced in the Office Action, Takagi et al. discloses an arrangement in which a heat insulating material 140 is provided on a pedestal (or frame) 110 so as to inhibit the influx of heat from heat sources mounted on the pedestal 110 into the chamber located beneath the pedestal 110. As an alternative to the heat insulating material 140, the temperature of the pedestal can be controlled by flowing a temperature-controlled fluid through the pedestal or through a jacket located on the pedestal, as shown in Figs. 9-11. Meanwhile, a laser interferometer 118A is mounted on a basement 108 (see col. 18, lines 31-36), and irradiates a measurement beam onto a reflective surface 118C of a wafer stage 114.

With respect to independent claim 1, Takagi et al. does not disclose or suggest an arrangement in which a temperature adjusting unit adjusts a temperature of a holding member that holds at least the measurement optical system of an interferometer system that irradiates a measurement light beam to the reflective surface of a movable body. In Takagi et al., the interferometer 118A, which irradiates a measurement light beam to the reflective surface 118C is not held by a holding member whose temperature is adjusted. The interferometer 118A is mounted to the basement 108, the temperature of which is not controlled.

With respect to independent claim 11, Takagi et al. does not disclose or suggest an arrangement in which the measurement optical system of an interferometer system, which irradiates the measurement light beam to the reflective surface of a movable body, is provided

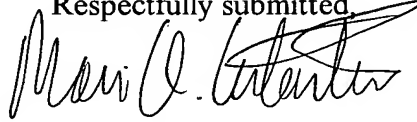
on the frame that holds the projection optical system. As noted above, the interferometer 118A of Takagi et al., which irradiates the light beam to the reflective surface 118C, is mounted on the basement 108, not to the pedestal 110. Takagi et al. also does not disclose or suggest the claim 11 temperature adjusting unit that adjusts a temperature of at least one of part of the measurement optical system provided on the frame and a holding member that holds the part.

With respect to independent claims 15 and 22, Takagi et al. fails to disclose or suggest an arrangement in which the temperature of the gas supplied to the space which includes the optical path of the measurement beam, and the temperature of at least the measurement optical system of the interferometer system or the holding member, is made to substantially coincide with each other. As noted above, Takagi et al. does not disclose or suggest controlling the temperature of the gas supplied to the chamber located beneath the pedestal 110 so as to coincide with a temperature of the interferometer 118A or the structure that holds the interferometer 118A.

Thus, Takagi et al. does not disclose or suggest the combinations of features/steps recited in the independent claims of this application. Withdrawal of the rejection based upon Takagi et al. is requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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MAC/ccs

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: November 18, 2004

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